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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the annexed copy of a note of protest sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey concerning the penetration by Turkish armed forces to a depth of 16 kilometres inside Iraqi territory on the pretext that they were in pursuit of "separatist terrorists".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Note verbale dated 7 August 1991 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and has the honour to refer to statements by Mr. Safa Giray, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, which were published by the Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet on Wednesday, 7 August 1991, in which he said that an armed Turkish convoy with air support had penetrated Iraqi territory to a depth of 16 kilometres on the pretext that it was in pursuit of "separatist terrorists". The Minister also referred to the possibility that such military operations would be repeated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protests against the violation by the Turkish army of the territory and national sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq and considers this conduct, and the intention to repeat it, to be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law and a serious abuse of the relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

Iraq reaffirms its desire to strengthen relations of good-neighbourliness built on cooperation and mutual respect and calls on the Turkish Government not to repeat such violations, which do not serve the interests of the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration.